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SENSITIVE
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TAGS: [PGOV](#) [SOCI](#) [IZ](#)
SUBJECT: KARBALA UNIVERSITY FAST-BREAK A SLAM DUNK

This is a PRT Karbala Reporting Cable

(U) This message is Sensitive but Unclassified - not for internet distribution

¶1. (SBU) Summary: PRT Karbala hosted Karbala University representatives to an iftar on September 15. The PRT described its activities and the Karbala guests explained their needs. In cooperation with Karbala University, PRT Karbala hopes to assist Iraq regain its tradition of academic excellence. End Summary.
Home-Court Advantage

¶2. (SBU) The PRT played host to administrators, professors and students from Karbala University at an iftar (Ramadan fast-breaking meal) at sunset on Monday, September 15. Seventeen guests--including the Acting President, Vice President and the deans of several of the institution's eight faculties--attended. The PRT's outreach to the university's 7,000 students expects to raise awareness about the PRT, and inspire the province's best and brightest to assume the mantle of progress in a post-PRT Iraq.

¶3. (SBU) Our guests only had a cursory understanding of the PRT's mission and were pleasantly surprised to learn of our activities and keen to enlist our support. Three law professors and the PRT agreed on the need for improved commercial laws and legal training. The professors elicited PRT support in identifying exchange programs and international seminars.

¶4. (SBU) The History Department chairman seized on our explanation of QRF to request books, and the Dean of Science stressed his faculty's need for training and equipment. The Media Section chief and an English professor were intrigued by the possibility of acquiring training in information technology and the prospect of TOEFL testing at the University. The Dean of the Agricultural College voiced interest in the PRT's poultry-production project.

Comment

¶5. (SBU) Comment: Although western educated, our guests likened life in pre-liberation Iraq to being trapped in a time-warp and found the challenge of introducing modern pedagogical methods daunting. By the iftar's end, the professors were excited about the prospect of working with the PRT to facilitate Karbala University's entry into the 21st century. The students are eager participants in Iraq's academic quest for world-class excellence. End Comment.
CROCKER